



## **Click It or Ticket**

From the Wisconsin DOT, Division of State Patrol,  
Bureau of Transportation Safety

### **Chippewa Falls Police Department**



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### **City PD Hooks Up with Statewide Click It or Ticket Campaign**

The Chippewa Falls Police Department will be among hundreds of law enforcement agencies throughout Wisconsin participating in the Click It or Ticket safety belt enforcement mobilization from May 18 to 31, according to Lt. Mark Hanson

“During Click It or Ticket, our patrol efforts will have an emphasis on seatbelt enforcement, including at night when safety belt use typically declines,” said Lt. Hanson. “As in the past our objective during the mobilization is not to write more tickets but to possibly save lives and reduce injuries through voluntary compliance with Wisconsin’s mandatory safety belt law. If motorists do not voluntarily comply, we will enforce the law. We won’t accept excuses and you won’t get a warning if you are stopped by an officer and are not buckled.”

Consistent safety belt use is the single most effective protection against being ejected from a vehicle or thrown around violently inside it during a crash. An estimated 237 lives were saved by safety belt use in Wisconsin in 2007, and 100 percent safety belt use could have saved an additional 137 lives, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation. Hanson stated that the statistics regarding young motorists and safety belt use are among the most startling. Traffic crashes are the leading cause of death nationwide for young people, ages 4 to 34. On average, a driver age 19 or under in Wisconsin is killed or injured in a traffic crash every hour. Safety belt use is lowest (66%) among drivers from ages 16 to 25. Hanson noted there have actually been some commendable efforts initiated by young people to promote seatbelt use following the tragic deaths of a friend or classmate. Unfortunately some have failed to retain their own message. “It almost breaks your heart when you stop a car that has the ‘buckle-up’ sticker on the back but no one in the car is belted”, Hanson said.

“Far too many people are killed or injured needlessly everyday because they were not buckled up,” said Lt. Hanson. “The ultimate goal is to reduce the number of ‘preventable’ traffic deaths to zero in Wisconsin. That’s why we urge everyone to buckle up every time they get behind the wheel or ride in a vehicle. However, if you ignore the law and common sense, we’ll be ready to provide you with a citation and a court date as a reminder.”